Title : Need to approve final alignment of the East-west Corridor of National Highways Development Project on National Highways No. 31 and 31C passing through Siliguri.

(xiii) Need to approve final alignment of the East - West Corridor

of National Highways Development Project on National

Highways No. 31 and 31C passing through Siliguri

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (ALIPURDUAR): Sir, the final alignment of the East-West Corridor of the National Highways Development Project passing through Siliguri, Sevoke Odlabari, Mal, Hasimara and Damanpur was suggested by a Special Task Force long back and it is supposed to follow the existing National Highways No. 31 and 31C. The work on this project has not been executed so far due to one reason or the other. The proposed corridor will be beneficial to tourist spots of North Bengal, Darjeeling and also to Sikkim as these places will have direct access to this route also and it will give rise to development of tourism in Dooars and also help people to have business with nearby States like Sikkim and Assam and countries like Bhutan. Further, it will also decongest traffic movement in Siliguri and Jalpaiguri which are very crowded areas.

Sir, I would humbly request the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to get the project executed through the route originally suggested by the Special Task Force, i.e., through National Highways No. 31 and 31C and expedite the work.

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shri Adhir Chowdhury, if you would say sorry.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, I would beg apology for not appearing on time.